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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 5, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SHELLY MOORE CAPITO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Clyde P. Thomas, Pastor, Cherokee Avenue Baptist Church, Gaffney, South Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, our Heavenly Father, we humbly come to You today to seek Your guidance knowing that we take only one step at a time. Illuminate each step as only You can and keep us strong in our path.

O Lord, grant that we will live together as people of vision and understanding as well as promise and peace. We pray for our President and Members of this body as they serve. Encourage and strengthen them with Your power and wisdom. Protect our military and our law enforcement men and women. Give comfort to their families and refresh their spirit. Make us mindful of our responsibilities and grateful for our opportunities to do Your will. We pray this in the name above every other name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BARRETT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND CLYDE PICKNEY THOMAS, JR.

(Mr. SPRATT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, the opening prayer was given by the Reverend Clyde Pickney Thomas, Jr. Reverend Thomas has served in the ministry of the Southern Baptist Church since 1974 and is now the pastor of Cherokee Avenue Baptist Church in Gaffney, South Carolina, a pulpit that he has filled with distinction since 1979.

Reverend Thomas is not only a prominent preacher of the gospel, but a pastor who has developed courses of study for adults, youth, and children, conducted an extensive sports ministry, and taken at least 10 mission trips to places as far away as the Amazon. He is married to Joanne Cash Thomas, and they have two sons, Clyde Preston Thomas and James Grady Thomas.

I have had the privilege of attending Sunday services at Cherokee Avenue and, afterwards, having lunch in the fellowship hall. I can attest to the fact that the preaching and the cooking were both first rate.

I want to thank Reverend Thomas and thank also the Speaker and Father Coughlin for allowing Reverend Thom-

as to open today's session with prayer. Thank you very much.

THE NEW YORK TIMES GOT IT RIGHT AGAIN

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, last week I sat on this House floor and did something I never thought I would do: I praised the New York Times for accurately reporting the facts about the success of the new Medicare prescription drug program.

They say lightning never strikes the same place twice, so you can imagine my surprise when the New York Times ran an April 3 editorial that said about Medicare part D: "Complaints and call waiting times are diminishing, and many uninsured patients are clearly saving money on their drug purchases."

It is refreshing that the mainstream media is finally beginning to acknowledge that millions of seniors are saving thousands of dollars a year on their prescriptions under Medicare part D. This benefit has already lowered average monthly premiums from \$37 to \$25, and those seniors with limited incomes will incur nearly no expenses at all.

It is a real shame that my Democratic colleagues refuse to admit that this benefit is making a positive difference. Instead, they prefer to bash the program and scare seniors into thinking it is "confusing." The Main Street press is finally starting to pay attention to millions of our seniors' success stories. It is about time that Democrats remove their ear plugs and start paying attention, too.

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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